# Hospital hijinks recalled

Have you ever had the kissing disease? I have. It isn't what you think.

When Georgetown Hospital opened 30 years ago, I was on staff, and one of the first original staff members to be admitted as a patient. Word spread like wildfire. I had the kissing disease.

There was a steady stream of young folks and a couple of seniors visiting me, anxious to know even, if they shook my hand, was there a possibility it would be transmitted to them?

Several guys shook hands umpteen times. One guy didn't want to let go. Kissing was all they wanted to talk about when they visited. Naturally I let on there were only certain individuals blessed with this medical malady, but left out the part doctors and nurses knew. This was a disease that often showed up in people working in a hospital environment.

When the guys found out this part, they applied in droves for hospital jobs.

It didn't matter what their experience was - washing windows, garbage detail - they were willing to assume these tasks to perhaps come in contact with the kissing disease.

To the best of my recollection, there were 165 fellows that applied for work. On their applications when they came to the question "What type of work are you prepared to do?" one hundred per cent answered "anything."

You can see they were keen to get the kissing bug.

What I really had was mononucleosis and glandular fever but that didn't mean a damn thing to the fellows. They just thought you got an awful lot of kissing.

Goodness, didn't I tell them stories when they pushed me for details about my affliction. Why, one fellow got so excited when I whispered it was kissing like he'd never had before, he jumped right into the empty bed next to me and demanded that he be treated right away.

I got so good at telling stories about the kissing disease some fellows actually came back to see me twice. One fellow came three times.

The medical people knew it often showed up in hospital employees but I begged them not to set the record straight, just yet, because some of my buddies were now telling me of even kissing their wives and getting increased enjoyment.

One fellow who was sure he had picked up the bug, was anxiously awaiting a company party coming up.

He was sure he would be admitted the next day with the kissing disease. Even more infectious than mine.

I would be remiss if I didn't tell about genteel Miss Hopwood, Director of Nursing, who cheerily came in one day and asked if I would consent to being bathed by a group of young nursing assistant trainees under the instruction of Mrs. Kelso.

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Have You Got A Minute?

Will I? I'll even throw in my own soap.

They all gathered around my bed. "Imagine," I thought to myself, "how my buddies would react in disbelief when I tell them part of the treatment for kissing disease is the sensuous delight of being bathed by a horde of attractive young women."

When I told this story to one of my visitors, he immediately went to Out-Patients and described all the symptoms and demanded admission.

To the best of my knowledge, only two original employees remain from 30 years ago, Earldine Robinson and Dave Barton.

The three of us could tell you some funny stories of the early days.

Like the auxiliary cart being stored in the morgue until one volunteer found more than the cart one day.

The day Miss McLellon bood

The day Miss McLellan, head nurse in the O.R., captured a runaway reluctant youngster who was to have a T and A that morning.

She marched down the corridor, patient over her shoulder, his buttocks exposed and Miss Hopwood in a tizzy, begging McLellan to "cover him up, cover him up."

McLelian wasn't the type to be fooled with.

I could go on and tell you more funny stories of a young brand new spanking hospital taking it's first step in a community thrilled that at last we had one of our own.

But best of all, Operation 91 is

filled with fun, skits and humor playing at the John Elliott Theatre Friday (tonight) and Saturday.

Go, you'll die laughing. Years ago Ralph ursel gay

Stories by W. Steamer -

Emmerson

Years ago Ralph ursel gave me tapes of Operation 62. I played it yesterday.

I heard the voices of Enid Ursel, Kay Thompson, Ross Norton, Bill Fisher, Bill Carr, my own, Jim Rundle, Vera Mac-Donald, Nadine Rupert and other cast members.

It sure brought back a lot of wonderful memories.

Before I go, one more story.

Rex Heslop donated a house to be given away on a draw. Tickets were mailed out to former residents and friends to purchase. Although the intentions were good, this was illegal and the government said stop and give the money back.

On the tape I heard myself singing:

"Mayor Armstrong on the hospital drive

Sent raffle tickets through the mail

Then Ottawa notified poor John Keep on and you'll go to jail.

John quickly called a committee meeting and laid things on the line.

The government threatened me with 20 years and I just can't spare the time."

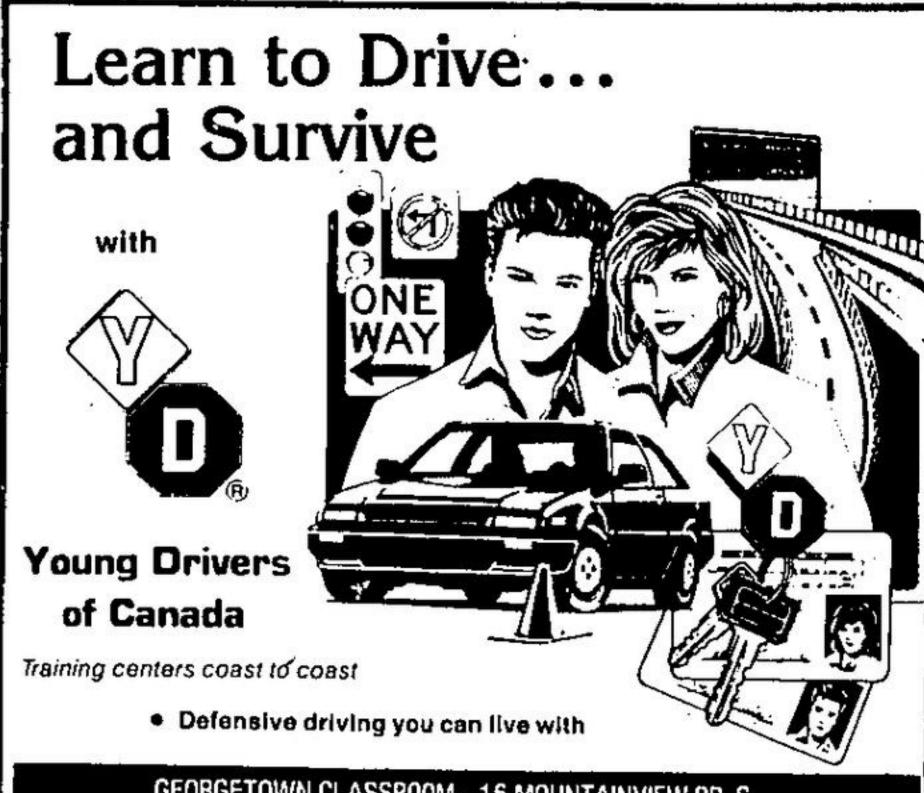
To the hospital, congratula-

To the hospital, congratulations, and to the cast of Operation 91, break-a-leg.

P.S. And at the cast party be mindful of the kissing disease. It takes a while to get over.

Say: "I saw it in The Herald"





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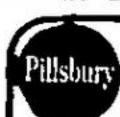
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